1: Federal Writers' Project. Savannah Unit. Drums and shadows; survival studies among the Georgia coastal Negroes. By the Savannah Unit, Georgia Writers' Project, Work Projects Administration. Introduction by Charles Joyner. Photographs by Muriel and Malcolm Bell, Jr. Athens and London, University of Georgia Press, 1986.

46, 274 p.; 40 photographs on 32 plates.

HRAF copy.

[This source represents a pioneering study in demonstrating the continuing influence of African folklore among Georgian coastal Negroes as it existed in the latter part of the 1930s. This work was undertaken by members of the Federal Writers' Project--unemployed novelists, poets, Ph.D.'s, journalists and free-lance writers--who operated as an agency of the New Deal's Work Projects Administration. These fieldworkers interviewed sharecroppers and ex-slaves, studied court records, inventoried cemeteries, and collected oral histories and folklore. The major bulk of the material in this source focuses on interviews with informants in a number of small Sea Island communities (e. g., Old Fort, Tin City, Yamacraw, etc.). Most of the questions asked of the informants are particularly concerned with various aspects of religious customs, such as conjuring (sorcery), death practices, belief in spirits, magic and curing, and baptism, but there is also information here on naming practices, music and musical instruments (particularly drums), dance,

1: Federal Writers's Project

and knowledge and beliefs about the Sea Islanders African ancestors. The comments of the informants are recorded in the dialect of the Coastal Blacks of Georgia and South Carolina, a form of creole language which played an important part in shaping the culture of the area.

Footnotes in the text refer to the appendix at the end of this source and to specific African parallels described therein. (See Category 171, pp. 195-249.).]

Field date: no date

Evaluation: Organizational Documents and Reports-5

Analyst: John Beierle

Processed in 1990

2: Jones-Jackson, Patricia. When roots die; endangered traditions on the Sea Islands. Athens and London, University of Georgia Press, 1987.

30, 189 p.; 15 photographs, 1 figure; 1 map, 1 table.

HRAF copy.

[This source is an important contribution to linguistics and folklore, and is one of the first book length treatments of the contemporary Sea Islanders language and culture. Its sound scholarship and clear and engaging style provide a wealth of information for both professional interest and lay readers. The work is divided into four major chapters. Chapter 1 provides a survey of the area and its people, with data on geography, demography, and economic and social history. Chapters 2 and 3 make up the largest portion of this book. Chapter 2 provides much information on the settings in which folktales are told, the techniques employed in story-telling, and biographical sketches on some of the prominent storytellers. Chapter 3 consists of Sea Islanders prayers and tales, with comparisons made to some of their African counterparts. The final chapter, chapter 4, is strongly oriented to the linguistic features of the Sea Islanders speech, again with comparative data provided on African parallels. Four appendices conclude this work providing information on fishing, a text of a Brer (Buh) Rabbit tale, a phonetic text concerning the soul

2: Jones-Jackson

and spirit, and the land question in contemporary society.]

Field date: 1973-1986 Evaluation: Linguist-5
Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990

3: Creel, Margaret Washington. "A peculiar people"; slave religion and community-culture among the Gullahs. New York and London, New York University Press, 1988.

18, 417 p.; 12 plates; 2 maps, 9 tables.

HRAF copy.

[This study is a general historical account of slavery in the South, with particular reference to South Carolina and Georgia, and the Sea Islands along the coast. Given primary emphasis in the source is the relationship between community, religion and resistance as these concepts affected the Afro-American population during the period of slavery. The work is divided into four major parts. In Part I, the African background of the slaves is discussed. This section includes information on the slave trade itself, ethnic composition of the slave population, and the significance of the African socio-religious legacy. Part II deals with Black-White relationships, or "counterpoints", as the author calls it, up to the War of Independence. This section deals with missionary activities, slave-master relations, and the Black religious experience -- the Great Awakening, and the development of a Black-to-Black spiritual interaction. The Black-White relationship concept is continued into Part III, but here the subject is rebellion and the White's reaction to it in the form of repression. In this section Creel discusses the efforts of Methodist laymen and Baptist planters to convert the Gullahs, and their reaction

3: Creel

in turn to Christianity, slavery, and life in bondage. The counterpoint technique is dropped in Part IV, with the discussion turning to a presentation of Gullah socio-religious culture in a collective setting. Here information is provided on how the Gullah interpreted Christianity, how various aspects of their African heritage were integrated into this "new" religion, and their general attitudes toward life, death, and the supernatural.

Much of the generalized information on slavery in the South and on mainland South Carolina and Georgia has been marked only for Category 175, to provide background information for later discussions on slavery in the Sea Islands when and where these references occur in the text.]

Field date: no date Evaluation: Historian-4
Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990

4: Carawan, Guy. Ain't you got a right to the tree of life? The people of Johns Island,South Carolina--their faces, their words, and their songs. Revised and expanded edition. Recorded and edited by Guy and Candie Carawan. Photographs by Robert Yellin, et al. Music transcribed by Ethel Raim. Preface by Charles Joyner. Afterword by Bernice Johnson Reagon. Athens and London, University of Georgia Press, 1989.

24, 240 p.; 141 photographs; map.

HRAF copy.

[This work is an oral record of sea island life, based on the community's recollection of its history. These memories reach back from the ethnographic present (1988) to the turn of the century. The source describes in detail the thoughts and feelings, joys and trepidations of Blacks' first experiencing the civil rights movement. It tells of the early days on the island when sharecropping and "living out of the creek" were the primary means of subsistence. It tells of medical care based exclusively on herbal remedies, and of log houses daubed with pinestraw and mud. In these pages the islanders speak of the Moving Star Hall praise house where religious "shouts", carried well into the night, raised the spirits of the participants in a time of extreme poverty and social injustice. This source also presents much material on the development of the citizenship

organizers, Septima Clark and Esau Jenkins. The work concludes with a discussion of the enormous changes that have taken place on Johns Island from the 1960s, (when the last edition of this book was published), to the present time, not only in civil rights and educational development, but in many other aspects of the culture as well.]

Field date: 1959-1988 Evaluation: Folklorist, Sociologist-5

Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990

5: Nichols, Patricia Causey. Linguistic change in Gullah: sex, age, and mobility. Dissertation (Linguistics)---Stanford, Cal., Stanford University, 1976. University Microfilms, Publications, 76-26,049. Ann Arbor, Michigan, Xerox University Microfilms, 1976 [1989 copy].

2, 9, 152 l.; 11 figures; 1 map, 7 tables.

HRAF copy.

[This is a study of linguistic change in Gullah, the language spoken by the vast majority of Blacks living along the Georgia and South Carolina coasts and the adjacent Sea Islands. The author attempts to show how rapid change in this creole-like language can be observed today as it functions across age and social groups and within cohesive speech communities. Nichols believes that as a contribution to an emerging theory of linguistic variations this work will provide evidence that changes of this nature are systematic both for individuals and for speech communities, and can be activated by social factors such as sex, age and population mobility, which may vary from one community to the next. To illustrate this concept a comparison is made between island communities and those on the nearby mainland. A major portion of the discussion of linguistic change in Gullah deals with a detailed analysis of the grammar.]

Field date: no date Evaluation: Linguist-5
Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990

6: Smith, Franklin O. A cross generational study of the parental discipline practices and beliefs of Gullah Blacks of the Carolina Sea Islands. Dissertation (Education)---Amherst, University of Massachusetts, 1973. University Microfilms, Publications, 73-14,681. Ann Arbor, Michigan, University Microfilms, 1973 [1989 copy].

3, 7, 84 l.; 6 tables.

HRAF copy.

[The primary goal of this research investigation is the study of patterns of discipline in contemporary Sea Island society. The author identifies the discipline habits of Sea Island parents, measures the direction and extent of change in these habits and beliefs across three generations of the population, and discusses the affective influence of isolation on them. Most of the primary data in this source were obtained from interviews with the members of fourteen family units on the five Sea Islands of James, Johns, Yonges, Wadmalaw and Edisto. A structured questionnaire was used to record the responses of those interviewed, which was later submitted to statistical data analysis using the chi-square and Fisher Exact Test procedures to compute the significance of the responses at the .05, .01, or .001 levels. These tests were designed to analyze the relationship between the variables of island isolation, generation, and sex in reference to disciplinary practices. The discussion of the

6: Smith

results of these text make up the major bulk of this source.]

Field date: no date
Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Indigene, Educator-5
Processed in 1990

7: Jackson, Patricia Ann Jones. The status of Gullah: an investigation of convergent processes. Dissertation (Linguistics)---Ann Arbor, University of Michigan, 1978. University Microfilms, Publications, 7813672. Ann Arbor, Michigan, University Microfilms International, 1978 [1989 copy].

3, 5, 175ℓ.; 1 figure; 10 tables.

HRAF copy.

[This study is based on three years of field research by the author from July 1973 through August 1976, primarily on Wadmalaw Island, South Carolina. Additional linguistic research was also conducted on Johns, Edisto, Yongs, and James Islands. The focus of Jackson's research is on the study of the Gullah language, its placement within the Creole language family, and linguistic change from the early days of slavery to the present day. The author reviews and critiques various theories of linguistic change, notably those suggested by DeCamp, Rickford, Turner, Bickerton and Cunningham, and then presents her own analysis of the language based on the quantitative investigation of evolutionary patterns of retention and movement in Gullah with a discussion of the dynamics involved in this variation and movement process through a detailed analysis of grammar and phonology (p.5). Comparisons are made throughout the text to comparable linguistic elements in the mainland Black dialect. The source concludes with the presentation of several Sea Island texts

7: Jackson

illustrating in context various manifestations of Gullah/Creole phonology, syntax and morphology.]

Field date: 1973-1976 Evaluation: Linguist-5
Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990

8: Smith, Reed. Gullah. Bulletin of the University of South Carolina, no. 190. Columbia, South Carolina, University of South Carolina, Bureau of Publications, 1926.

45 p.

Yale: Fzj2 1 Sm6.

[This source is essentially a linguistic study of the Gullah dialect of the Carolina-Georgia coast and adjacent Sea Islands, preceded by a brief historical introduction. The linguistic material which comprises the bulk of the source is relatively superficial in coverage and deals with Gullah as a dialect itself, and its grammar, phonology, and vocabulary. A list of common proverbs is appended at the end of this section. The work concludes with a brief study of Sea Islander songs, primarily "spirituals", and their origins.]

Field date: no date Evaluation: Humanist-4,5
Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990

9: Parrish, Lydia. Slave songs of the Georgia Sea Islands. Music transcribed by Creighton Churchill and Robert MacGimsey. Introduction by Olin Downes. New York, Creative Age Press, 1942.

32, 256 p.; 32 photographs on 25 plates; map, music.

Yale: Cross Campus Library M1670 P37 +S6 (LC).

[Indelibly impressed with the sounds of the Negro songs she had heard as a child in Philadelphia during the latter part of the 19th and early 20th centuries, the author's interest was stimulated to learn more about this fascinating form of music. Many years later Mrs. Parrish found herself the owner of a home on St. Simon's Island on the coast of Georgia, a district which turned out to be a veritable sanctuary of Afro-American music. Her investigation of the subject soon branched out into the neighboring territories of the coasts and islands of Georgia and South Carolina, even extending as far as the Bahamas and Haiti. The collection of slave songs presented in this source represent twenty-five years of research by the author (p.v) working with Sea Island informants who had intimate knowledge of the songs. In this study, Parrish provides some general background information on the slave songs and their preservation, then divides them into five major categories for discussion: those that represent African survivals on the coast of Georgia; the type

9: Parrish

known as "shout" songs; ring-play, dance, and fiddle songs; religious songs; and work songs. Each category contains background information on the particular type of song style represented, as well as the accompanying song text and musical score.]

Field date: ca. 1916-1941

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Folklorist-4,5
Processed in 1990

10: Johnson, Guy B. Folk culture on St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, 1930.

12, 183 p.; music.

Yale: Cross Campus Library E185.93 S7 J64 (LC).

[This source is divided into three parts dealing with the dialect, folk songs, and folklore of the Sea Islanders of St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Part I, dealing with the Gullah dialect, provides information on the cultural background of this unique language, including data on phonology, grammar and vocabulary. The effects of African influence on the dialect is also discussed. In part II the author describes the current (i. e., ca. 1930) status of folk songs on St. Helena Island, with particular emphasis on the Negro spiritual and its derivation. Here the author digresses to some length to show the relationship of American Negro music to English and American folk music. The final section of this work, part III, sketches briefly the folklore of the island, with several illustrative text examples to give concreteness to the discussion. This section also contains information on riddles, proverbs, toasts, rhymes, and games.]

Field date: no date

Analyst: John Beierle

Evaluation: Social Scientist-4,5

Processed in 1990

11: Johnson, Guion Griffis. A social history of the Sea Islands, with special reference to St. Helena Island, South Carolina. Chapel Hill, North Carolina, University of North Carolina Press, 1930.

12, 245 p.; 5 photographs; 2 maps.

Yale: C 66 401.

[This source presents a cultural and economic history of the Sea Islands of Georgia and South Carolina from the pre-revolutionary period (ca. 1525) up to the close of the Reconstruction Period following the American Civil War (ca. 1880). The primary focus of the study is on the island of St. Helena. Much of the information presented here represents the ante-bellum period of history and covers such topics as the special crops grown in the area -- rice, indigo, and especially cotton; slavery; the planters and the management of the large plantations; the Federal occupation period during the Civil War; and the aftermath of the freeing of the slaves. Emphasis throughout this work is placed on cotton production and the use of slaves as a source of labor. Data on the White planters and the management of their plantations will be found only in Category 116, pp. 103-123.]

Field date: no date Evaluation: Historian-4,5
Analyst: John Beierle Processed in 1990